UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations commemorates fiftieth anniversary of signing of Charter in San Francisco; Secretary-General says Organization expresses age-old dream of universal cooperation.

* Secretary-General has meetings with Presidents of United States and Poland in San Francisco.

* Secretary-General condemns attempted assassination of President of Egypt; says campaign against terrorism must be accelerated.

* Special Representative praises UNMIH's performance in providing technical assistance and security support for Haitian elections; no major violent incidents reported.

* Fighting intensifies in Sarajevo amid small-scale offensive actions by Bosnian Government; Croatia alleges troops from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are present in Sector South.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves $50 million to finance UNIKOM, UNOMIG and UNOMIL through mid-1996.

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Today was the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. At a ceremony in San Francisco commemorating that event, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations expressed the age-old dream of universal cooperation. He stressed that the Charter was more than a document of history; it was the foundation stone of international relations.

Through the United Nations, he continued, the world had embraced the ideals of peace and security -- to preserve the integrity of States and to protect the lives of their peoples. The Charter had proved flexible enough to meet the need for peace-

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keeping. For both troop-contributors and the countries they served, United Nations peace operations reinforced the ideal of international solidarity in the face of conflict. Through the United Nations, the world had also pledged itself to the ideal of development, framing a vision and forging a consensus on the rights that belonged to all humanity.

"We are the custodians of the dream of global cooperation," the Secretary-General went on to say. "We will not let it perish. As long as people seek national identities; as long as people seek protection from aggression; and as long as people yearn for a better world for their children, the United Nations will endure, and it will succeed."

In his address to the commemorative ceremony, United States President Bill Clinton said the United Nations had compiled a remarkable record of progress over the last fifty years. The Organization had advanced the interests of the United States and of the world. On every continent it had played a vital role in making people more free and more secure.

Should the United States turn its back on the United Nations, it would mean more economic, political and military burdens for the American people and it would mean ignoring the lessons of history, President Clinton continued. He underlined the importance of reform of the United Nations, but stressed that the United States should pay its fair share of the Organization's costs.

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Following today's ceremony commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter, the Secretary-General had a 30-minute meeting with President Clinton. He then attended a civic luncheon in San Francisco, and delivered the keynote address. Earlier in the day, he attended the city's dedication of the United Nations Plaza.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali had numerous appointments in San Francisco over the weekend. Yesterday, he had a meeting with Polish President Lech Walesa, and accepted an invitation to visit Poland later this year. He later met with four Nobel Peace Laureates -- President Walesa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Dr. Oscar Arias of Costa Rica and Mrs. Betty Williams of Ireland. The Secretary-General also addressed the national convention of the United Nations Association of the United States, and attended an inter-faith service at Grace Cathedral in honour of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary.

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In a message on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Secretary-General said illicit drugs threatened the peace, stability and tranquility of humanity. He stressed that international action was vital to counter that threat. Prevention was the first priority, based on reducing both supply and demand.

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The Secretary-General today expressed great dismay at the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He condemned the incident in the strongest terms, and said the campaign against terrorism must be accelerated.

International peace and social justice could not be served by murder, terrorism and fundamentalism, he stressed. Those goals could only be attained by constructive dialogue and negotiation, within a democratic framework.

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Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi has expressed great satisfaction at the performance of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) in yesterday's Haitian elections. He particularly praised the work of the civilian police monitors, who had worked very long hours. The United Nations provided technical assistance and security support for the elections, which took place without any major incidents of violence. Haitian radio described UNMIH's performance as "a flawless job."

The Haitian people were voting to elect 18 senators, 83 assembly members, 133 mayors, 266 deputy mayors, and 1,695 members of municipal government. The results of the elections will be released next week, according to the head of Provisional Electoral Council.

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Fighting has intensified in and around Sarajevo, particularly in the area of the airport, and there have been reports of small-scale offensive activity by the Bosnian Government, a United Nations spokesman said today. Bosnian Serb forces fired on a French resupply convoy crossing Mount Igman, but ended their attack after peace-keepers fired warning rounds.

Meanwhile, 19 shells impacted in Gorazde yesterday, killing

four civilians and injuring one. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the food situation there was fast becoming critical. A humanitarian convoy which had been halted by the Bosnian Serbs for eight days yesterday gave up its attempt to enter the town and returned to base. No convoys have reached Gorazde since 20 May.

The humanitarian situation in the southern part of the Bihac pocket has also been deteriorating, according to the UNHCR. Humanitarian convoys attempting to reach the area have been obstructed by rebel Muslim forces led by Fikret Abdic, which control the northern part of the pocket.

In another development, the Croatian Government has informed Special Representative Yasushi Akashi that troops and supplies from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) are present in Sector South. The United Nations Confidence Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) is expected to respond formally to that allegation tomorrow.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would appropriate or authorize almost $50 million to maintain three peace-keeping operations. The Committee also approved draft decisions on another four operations.

One draft resolution would provide $22 million for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) for the period 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996. That amount represents more than a third of the Mission's cost for the period. The remainder would be covered by a voluntary contribution of $38 million from the Government of Kuwait. Another draft would provide almost $20 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) from 16 May 1995 through June 1996. A third draft resolution would provide $8.5 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for the period 1 July to 31 December.

The Fifth Committee also approved draft decisions which would have the Assembly set off certain unencumbered balances, accrued interest and miscellaneous income against Member States' apportionments in respect of three operations. Those operations are: the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia. A draft decision on the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) would have the Assembly endorse and approve relevant ACABQ recommendations.

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